(b) The quantum of edible oils to be imported is decided by the Government from time to time keeping in view various factors such as gap between demand and supply, international prices, availability of foreign exchange, and other related factors. In the oil year 1985-86, 11.70 lakh MTs of edible oils were imported.

(c) and (d) Government has taken a number of measures to increase the production of oilseeds and oils. The important measures taken are:

(i) Implementation of the National Oilseeds Development Project, covering special measures for groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, soyabean and sunflower besides intensive development wodk on five other oilseeds.

(ii) State-level cooperative oilseeds growers' federations have been formed in some States under the project for restructuring of Edible Oils and Oilseeds production and marketing through National Dairy Development Board.

(iii) Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices for oilseeds at higher levels.

(i) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the productivity of oilseeds. A technology Mission on oilseeds has been set up.

(v) Increase in area under non-traditional oilseeds crop like soyabean and sun-flower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(vi) Setting up of necessary processing and infra-tructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.

(vii) Fiscal incentives for increased use of non-conventional oils by the vanaspati industry, exemption from excise duty in respect of refined rice bran, cotton-seed and soyabean oils meant for direct human consumption and also for refined solvent extracted oil.

It is not possible to indicate a definite period but there will be increase in self-reliance in oilseeds/edible oils production by the end of the VII the Plan.

Import of Fertilizers

699. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a glut of fertilizers in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to resume imports of fertilisers from the EEC and other countries; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILISERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, sir. The present high stocks of fertilisers are due to low off-take on account of unfavourable weather conditions in many parts of the country. However, to match the demand and supply, quantities over and above the assessed demand have not been authorised for sale during the current Kharif season.

(b) and (c) The entire requirement of Potassic fertilisers is met by import as there are no known commercially viable indigenous sources of such fertilisers. Some quantities of Urea and DAP are planned to be imported during the second half of the year to meet contractual obligaitons. However, imported stocks will not be released for sale, as far as possible, so long as indigenous stocks can meet the entire demand.